

Coming into hospital for an operation



This document tells you what will happen when you come to The Whittington Hospital for an operation



Before the day of your operation

You may need to come into hospital to

- talk to the nurses
- and answer their questions

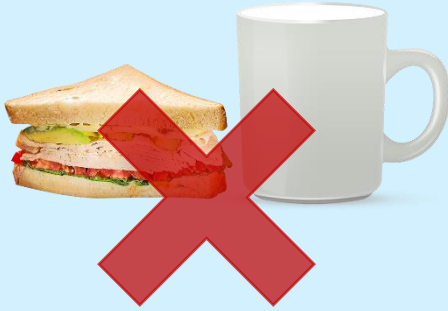


They may take your blood pressure
and take some blood



The **date** and **time** of your operation
will be in the letter the hospital sent
you

On the day of your operation



You will have to **stop eating** and **drinking** before you come into hospital

Your appointment letter will tell you what time to stop eating and drinking



You may feel hungry or thirsty – **it is very important you do not eat or drink anything**

This includes sweets and chewing gum



When you arrive at the clinic give your letter to reception staff



You will be asked to wait the **reception** area



A nurse will come and meet you and show you to your bed



The nurse will ask you to undress and put on a hospital gown – the nurse can help you with this



The nurse will take your

- blood pressure
- and temperature



Before the operation

The doctor will tell you about the operation you will be having – this is called the **procedure**



The doctor will ask if you

- understand what is going to happen
- and if you have any questions



The doctor will ask you to say **yes** to having the **procedure**

Saying **yes** is called giving **consent**



You or your carer may be asked to sign a **consent form** – this means you want to have

- the test or operation
- and the anaesthetic



Waiting to go into theatre

The nurse will take you to the operating theatre – you can walk or go on the bed



You will be asked to wait on the ward until the doctors are ready for you

Sometimes you may have a long wait for your operation



Your carer can sit with you in the **operating theatre waiting bay** while you wait for your operation to start



After your operation

When you are back on the ward the nurses will take care of you – they will check your pulse and blood pressure



Tell the nurse or doctor if you

- are not feeling well
- have any pain
- or feel sick



Going home

The nurse will tell you and your carer how to look after yourself when you go home

They will tell you what pain killers you should take



When you are well enough to go home the nurse will help you get ready to leave hospital

You may be able to go home on the same day



If you have any questions, you can ask the nurse and other staff on the ward



The nurse will tell you if you need to come back to hospital

You will be given or sent a letter telling you where to go



Questions to ask

It is important you understand what the doctors and nurses say to you – **ask a question** if you don't understand something



You could ask...

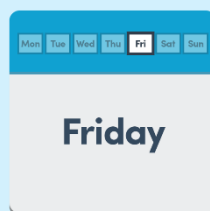
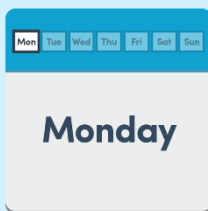
- Can you explain it again please?
- What should I do if things get worse?
- Who should I talk to if things get worse?



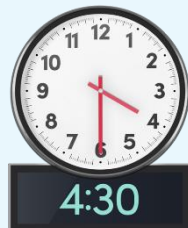
Before you leave the hospital make sure you know what you need to do next



If you or your carer need help while you are in the hospital you can call the **Learning Disability Liaison Nurse** on
020 72 88 53 58
or
07876 14 52 98



The **Learning Disability Liaison Nurse** at The Whittington Hospital works **Monday to Friday**



They work from **8.30am** to **4.30pm**



Information for people with

- a learning disability
- autism
- autism and a learning disability
- carers and relatives

can be found on the Trust website at
whittington.nhs.uk/default.asp?c=38579

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